

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 82.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1828.

[VOL. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE Government have sent a note to the Junta, wishing to negotiate a loan for two millions of dollars, which, with the three millions of ordinary revenue, will (as it is asserted,) cover the expenses of the Province and of the War for the present year. This statement, so flattering and so very different from the estimates taken a few months since, is attempted to be accounted for, first,—that the army having entered the enemy's territory, and being well provided with clothes, ammunition, &c., is now of little expense: secondly,—that a portion of the squadron are to be employed in purposes which will in part pay for the rest: thirdly and lastly,—some other savings have been mentioned, which it has not been thought proper to disclose.

Certain it is, that the army are now placed in Napoleon's favorite position; that is, in the heart of their enemy's territory, and "making war pay for war." The richest province of Brazil is occupied by an enemy she pretends to despise. The Emperor's army, which was to traverse the Banda Oriental, is like Macbeth's visionary dagger,—“there's no such thing;” and the military feebleness of Brazil is unmasked, and exposed to all the world.

But others say, that the Brazilians are acting upon the defensive system,—(defensive, after the bombastical pretensions put forth, and from an empire like Brazil!)—from knowing the feeble resources of her opponents, and that they must yield at last; that it would be folly to engage with desperate men, &c. It cannot be forgotten, that in England numerous individuals uttered similar opinions, when the British army were in Spain; assuring us, that Napoleon only allowed them to remain in order to increase our expenses, confident that we could not long afford to keep them there.

We insert that part of the Message of the President of the U S of N. America to Congress, which relates to this Republic and Brazil. The Government of the U. S. appear satisfied with the explanations given by Brazil, and consequently all misunderstandings are in a fair train of arrangement. The Secretary of the Navy reports that the naval force in these seas will not be diminished; that the Macedonian is to return home in the course of the summer, to be replaced by another frigate. It notices the capture of American merchant vessels, for real or pretended violation of

blockade, and that on the remonstrances of the naval officers some have been released, &c.

“A hope was for a short time entertained, that a Treaty of Peace, actually signed between the Governments of Buenos Ayres and Brazil, would supersede all further occasion for those collisions between belligerent pretensions and neutral rights, which are so commonly the result of maritime war, and which have unfortunately disturbed the harmony of the relations between the United States and the Brazilian Governments. At their last session, Congress were informed that some of the naval officers of that Empire had advanced and practised upon principles in relation to blockades and to neutral navigation, which we could not sanction, and which our commanders found it necessary to resist. It appears that they have not been sustained by the Government of Brazil itself. Some of the vessels captured under the assumed authority of these erroneous principles, have been restored; and we trust that our just expectations will be realized, that adequate indemnity will be made to all the citizens of the United States who have suffered by the unwarranted captures which the Brazilian tribunals themselves have pronounced unlawful.

“In the diplomatic discussions, at Rio de Janeiro, of these wrongs sustained by citizens of the United States, and of others which seemed as if emanating immediately from the Government itself, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, under an impression that his representations in behalf of the rights and interests of his countrymen were totally disregarded and useless, deemed it his duty, without waiting for instructions, to terminate his official functions, to demand his passports, and return to the United States. This movement, dictated by an honest zeal for the honor and interests of his country, motives which operated exclusively upon the mind of the officer who resorted to it, has not been disapproved by me. The Brazilian Government, however, complained of it as a measure for which no adequate intentional cause had been given by them; and upon an explicit assurance, through their Chargé d'Affaires residing here, that a successor to the late Representative of the United States near that Government, the appointment of whom they desired, should be received and treated with the respect due to his character, and that indemnity should be promptly made for all injuries inflicted on citizens of the United States, or their property, contrary to the laws of nations, a temporary commission as Chargé d'Affaires to that country has been issued, which it is hoped will entirely restore the ordinary diplomatic intercourse between the two Governments, and the friendly relations between their respective nations.”

The newspapers of the U. S. are occupied in discussions

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upon the approaching election to the Presidential Chair. One portion of the citizens favor the re-election of Mr. Adams; another contends that General Jackson should be President.

Brazilian Prisoners of War to whom Parole has been granted and the place of their location.

AT CHASCOMUS.—Capitan de fragata, Eyre. First lieutenants acting as Captains,—Poitiers, Watson, Wilson, Reid. Second-lieutenants,—Vandenoel, Da Costa, Browning. Midshipmen,—Tupper, Mello. Pilots,—Lewis, Machado. There are some others whose names we are unacquainted with.

AT SAN JOSE DE FLORES.—First lieutenant, Mackintosh.

AT LUJAN.—Second-lieutenant, Steel.

The above individuals, on receiving their parole, signed a paper pledging themselves to remain at the place appointed for their residence, until regularly exchanged, or peace restored them to the enjoyment of their liberties. Five individuals, viz.—Poitier, Da Costa, Vandenoel, Watson, and Browning, have violated their parole, and escaped from Chascomus. We regret to find that two of them are Englishmen.

We have received a letter from Lieutenant Wilson, of which the following is a copy:

“Prison of Chascomus, Feb. 24, 1823.

“On Wednesday last I went to the Estancia de Espartillar, having previously obtained leave from the Commissary of Police so to do, which leave was given in the presence of several persons. During my absence five officers escaped, and this morning the Commissary sent a soldier to fetch me. To my surprise, he denied having granted me permission, though I brought proof, one of which was the Major of Police, the other his own Secretary. He then required the whole of us to present ourselves to him twice a-day, and never to go out on horseback: the horses he seized, refusing to pay for them. I answered, that if forced to comply with the above restrictions, I should not consider myself any longer on parole, and as a man of honour I thought it my duty to tell him so. I was sent to prison.

“I request that you will make this statement public, that it may not afterwards be said that I was on parole. Allowing that I was aware of the intention of my companions to escape, it was not my duty to inform against them; and it is a proof that while I was on parole I would not be capable of following their steps, not that I mean to blame them. The condition of their coming here was, that they should be treated in the same manner as at Tandil, viz.: to have half an arroba of beef per day, and six reals; a great consideration for a poor prisoner of war, but which was never given them.

“With respect to my giving up my parole, I took it under the idea of having the entire liberty of Chascomus and its environs, and not subject to the caprices of the commissaries, who ought to be able to take care of us without presenting ourselves daily morning and evening.

“I remain, Sir, yours &c.

“BOSVILLE JOHN WILSON.”

There is nothing in the above letter can palliate the breach of faith committed. The lenient manner in which this Government have treated their prisoners of war is known to all, and forms a powerful contrast to their opponents, whose severity even Brazilian Senators have commented upon. The rancour which the Emperor feels towards this country, leads him to every extreme.

What steps the Government intends to take in regard to the future management of the prisoners of war, we are not informed. The late proceedings at Chascomus has compromised those whose sense of honour would not allow them to attempt escape. Would to Heaven that none of our countrymen had been engaged in this cruel, unjust war! Years hence they will have to deplore assisting a presuming Emperor to perpetrate injustice.

Extract of a Letter relative to the action which the privateer brig Niger, Captain Coe, sustained with a Brazilian corvette.

“Fell in with an English batque, who informed us that the ship then in sight to leeward was the Brazilian corvette Maria Isabel, (late Fulton,) and that she had only 80 men, one half of them negroes. Captain Coe called all hands aft, and asked if they were willing to board. They gave three cheers, and answered in the affirmative: upon which the Niger stood for the corvette. At 8 p. m., when very near, the corvette hailed and asked, “What brig is that?”—The answer, “an American.” “Take care or you will be on board of us,” was replied.—“I intend so,” said Captain Coe, and the grappling irons were immediately thrown on board. First lieutenant Godrich, Bartlett, Render and other prize-masters, with a number of men, attempted to board, and got into the quarter-boats, but found the ship full of men, she having 200 seamen and officers on board more than her complement, going to join other vessels at St. Catherine’s. Captain Coe was on the bowsprit of the Niger, rallying his men, when a 24lb. shot struck nearly under his feet. Our men fought on the quarter, but could not board: the grapplings parted, and the Niger dropped astern. The corvette immediately made off. She had 12 sail under convoy, one of which (a schooner laden with sugar,) we captured. We had 24 men killed and wounded; among the former Mr. Waterman, carpenter, a very respectable man: wounded, Bartlett, a ball through his arm; Brown and Godrich, slightly. They took no prisoners from us; all got back to the brig, including the wounded. The engagement lasted about three-quarters of an hour; the Niger firing her great guns when opportunity offered: the corvette fired repeated broadsides, which cut our rigging a little.

“On 31st January our crew consisted of 100 men, having received several volunteers.”

A project of law has been presented to the Junta for the regulation of bakers, to the following purport:—All bakers who infringe the law, will lose the whole of the bread baked on the day in which the offence is committed, besides a penalty of 500 dollars for the first offence, double for the second, and quadrupled for the third, and the baking-house to be shut up. Any person selling bread in the streets, &c., not made according to the quality and weight ordained by law, to forfeit all the bread, fined 25 dollars for the first offence, double for the second, and quadrupled for the third, and not permitted to sell any more. Every baker against whom it can be proved that he has made bread from bad and nauseous flour, to be fined 1000 dollars for the first offence, double for the second, and quadrupled for the third, his baking-house shut up, and to be banished for six months. The owners of mills, who grind flour in contravention to the law, to be subject to the same penalties as in the third article. The above penalties to be distributed, one half to the informer, the other half to the Police.

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Great desertions have lately taken place from the Brazilian troops in Colonia. Twenty-seven soldiers arrived at Las Vacas a short time since, including some buglemen; and 30 guerrilla's, with the officer, Lieutenant Chamorro, came over last week. These and 20 additional men, pursued a Brazilian division which had made a sortie from Colonia, to the very walls, obliging them to abandon a quantity of horses. This last desertion is very important, as they are composed of natives of the province; and their abandonment of the cause of the Emperor at this critical moment, after having been such violent opponents to the Republican party, evinces something more than meets the public eye.

A list has been published in the Gazettes of this city, of the Brazilian soldiers who have deserted from Monte Video from 15th November 1827, to 31st January 1828; specifying their names, quality, and regiments to which they belonged: they are in number 56 men.

A letter from the Army, dated 19th ultimo, states that Colonel Pacheco has returned from his expedition, bringing with him 3700 horses. There had been some skirmishes, always to the advantage of the National Army; and desertions from the Brazilian Army still continued. The contingent from San Luis had arrived, as likewise that of Misiones. Lavalleja has addressed an energetic Proclamation to the troops, upon the anniversary of *Ituzingó*.

Feb. 23.—Wind S. E. Sailed, at 8 o'clock last evening, the Gun Boats Nos. 1 and 8, under the command of Captain La Rosa, for the purpose of joining Admiral Brown, supposed to be near Ensenada. At half-past 10 the fire of musquetry was heard in a direction between the Boca and Point Quilmes. It continued until 12 o'clock, with now and then cannon shots; and being a dark calm night, the flashes were distinctly seen by the crowd attracted to the azoteas, &c. The Gun Boats, during the night, had put back to the Inner Roads, having wind and tide against them; and this morning it was ascertained that the firing of last night proceeded from them and three Brazilian boats which they had fallen in with, supposed to be manned by Frenchmen, as they often heard, during the rencontre, the exclamation of "*à l'abordage*." The National Squadron stationed outside the Inner Roads, displayed lights during the night, as Admiral Brown had been engaged yesterday with a strong Brazilian division near Point Lara. Some apprehensions were entertained as to the result; but at day break this morning his three vessels were seen, viz.—schooner Maldonado, Admiral Brown, Captain Hidalgo; ditto Ninth February, Captain Rosales; schooner brig Eighth February, Captain Espora, sailing abreast of the blockading squadron, apparently uninjured. The latter did not seem in the least hurry to get under weigh, and it was not until the Maldonado had fired 4 guns at a strange boat, which she afterwards captured, that the Brazilians loosened sails: they consisted of 1 corvette, 3 brigs, 4 schooner-brigs and schooners. Admiral Brown came in under easy sail, no attempt was made to pursue him: he landed amidst a great crowd about 9 A. M., with Captains Espora, Rosales, and Dr. Johnson. The particulars of the engagement of yesterday we have detailed in another part. The captured boat is a privateer called *Fortuna*; her crew 8 Frenchmen. they had at first taken Admiral Brown's vessels for Brazilians, and had been in the fray with the Gun Boats last night, which they had at first supposed to be balandras. They gave information that a plan was in agitation for several boats to land men at night near to Admiral Brown's house, (which our readers are aware is outside the town,) and to carry the Admiral away from thence either dead or alive, for which they were to receive a considerable reward: in confirmation of which, the privateer captain stated that a boat with 20 men was concealed in a creek near the Boca, and offered to conduct any one to it. Accordingly two armed boats and a Gun Boat were despatched, but returned without meeting the object of their search; therefore whether the tale is the invention of these Frenchmen, or that their superiors have really proposed such an

assassin-like proceeding we are at a loss to determine: every precaution will now be taken to frustrate such an attempt.

At half-past 8 A. M., the Brazilian brig of war *Rio de la Plata* fired a gun, hoisted a flag of truce at the fore, and hove to near the bank between the Inner and Outer Roads. A boat was sent from the Inner Roads, and met the brig's boat; and the former, after communicating, made for the shore. A flag of truce generally creates some sensation in the speculating world, and a tolerable assemblage was collected at the Mole when the boat approached. She put on shore an English stranger; and to the enquiries made it was stated that he was not an Officer, but a Cabinet-Maker, which was at first misunderstood by some "*Hijos del Pais*" to mean a *Cabinet Minister*. He proved to be a passenger in the brig *Anne*, from Liverpool, which was plundered by *Pepa Onzas* and his companions some months since, has come to Buenos Ayres as a witness in the impending trial, and is by trade, a Cabinet Maker. The Brazilian squadron stood down the river, and at evening anchored nearly out of sight. Sailed, Gun Boats Nos. 1 and 2, to cruise for privateer boats between the Juncal, San Isidro, and Las Conchas.

24.—Wind N. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 9, from Las Vacas, and landed 27 German soldiers, deserters from the Brazilian Army. They are all young athletic men.

25.—Wind S. W. Sailed several balandras to the northward.

26.—Wind N. Arrived, Gun Boats No. 1 and 10 with a convoy from the Parana, Uruguay, &c.

27.—Wind S. E. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 9, with a convoy; and balandra *Carmen*, with stores, ammunition, &c., for Paysandu — Arrived, privateer schooner *El bravo* Coronel Olabarrin, from *Elkenada*.

28.—Wind E. N. E. A Brazilian brig approached the Outer Roads, reconnoitring. — Arrived, Gun Boats No. 8 and 9, and a balandra, from *Martin Garcia*.

29.—Wind N. Arrived, two balandras from the northward.

Two prizes belonging to the privateer *Niger* have been cast away, crews saved, viz.—a *zumaca* on the coast, and another at *Cape Corrientes*.

Admiral Brown's despatch to the Government relative to his late cruise with the three schooners, states that on the morning of the 21st ult. they were in sight of the Mount of Monte Video: saw a division of enemy's vessels, which they chased for some time, but as nothing was to be attained from it, changed the course during the night and steered for Buenos Ayres. At day-break on 22d, fell in with another division, upon which steered for Point Santiago, and anchored. The Brazilians attacked, and after a fight of 4 hours they found it convenient to haul off, notwithstanding the great superiority of their force. At night the National vessels made sail and endeavoured to cut off a Brazilian schooner, but she having succeeded in getting under the protection of the squadron, they stood for Buenos Ayres and came to anchor off Point Quilmes. At day break got under weigh, passed the 3 vessels off this port who were likewise under sail—captured the privateer boat *Fortuna*, and anchored in the Inner Roads. None were killed or wounded in the 3 vessels during the action, but the spars, sails and rigging were somewhat damaged.

Sailed from Ensenada on the 22d ult. the privateer schooner *Bonaerense*, (late *Tandem*) Green, on a cruise. She has 5 guns, one of them a 12 pounder on a pivot, and nearly 70 men, English and Americans. The pilot left her on the 23d, 25 miles S. W. of Monte Video, going 9 knots, stiff breeze N. N. E.

The Brazilian ship 9th January, prize to the late brig of war Congress, with a valuable cargo including 450 pipes of wine, has arrived at Valparaiso.

Boats have been employed during two or three days of this week, in taking away a few trifling articles from the remains of the burned brig *Sicily*, and from Gun Boat No. 11.

The *zumaca* *Correntina*, from this, has been taken by a Brazilian whale-boat, and conducted into Colonia.

The Lancers, "Defensores de la Patria," lately embarked for service, are to operate near Colonia; that garrison having made sorties with impunity since the separation of the cavalry regiment No. 17, so as likely to impede the communication with the army. The "Defensores" were recruited by a subscription raised by the members of the late Congress; each recruit received \$100 bounty.

A Correspondent remarks, that in the observations we made in No. 80 of *The British Packet*, upon the article presented to the Junta by Don Tomas An'horena, we have not sufficiently defined the interrogatories so often put to lovers upon their 'prospects in life,' and ability suitably to support a Porteña wife, nor noticed the different grades which exist; and has therefore undertaken to arrange them as follows:—

Parents of the very first class will demand of the anxious swain, — *¿ Tiene Vd. algun comercio?*
 Second class, — *¿ Tiene Vd. almagén?*
 Third class, — *¿ Tiene Vd. pulperia?*

The project of law above alluded to, has been negatived in the Senate after an animated debate.

Señor Masoni, late leader of the orchestra in the Theatre of this city, died lately in Chili. He possessed considerable professional talents, and, as a violinist, might vie with the Lidleys and Ashleys of our own country.

The remains of the late General BRANDZEN, killed in the battle of Ituzajugó, were sepulchred in the cemetery of the Recoleta on the 21st ultimo. It was a solemn and imposing spectacle, and attended by numerous individuals.—we might add, 'of all nations.' The military were in the procession, and their band performed the dirges in an impressive manner. An oration was pronounced over the grave by Colonel Trolé. The following are some parts of it; and we regret that our space will not permit the insertion of the whole:—

"GENTLEMEN,

"If the duty to pay the tribute of a last tear, to him whom we come now to mourn, belongs to the country for which he has so often and so valiantly fought; it is incumbent on me, his countryman and his brother in arms, to fulfil the sorrowful but tender obligation of strewing some flowers o'er his grave.

"Sorrowful anniversary of a day of mourning, in which America has lost one of her most zealous defenders; France, one of her most cherished sons; society, one of her finest ornaments; liberty, one of her most valiant champions; the Republic, one of her best citizens; and the National Army, one of its most illustrious warriors!

"In vain our voices yet call upon him: Brandzen is no more.

"If I may be permitted to retrace some passages of his life, I will represent to you the commencement of his career, in the year 1813, drawing upon him already the notice of the Generals of the Army of Italy; and gaining, soon after, new distinctions in Germany, on the fields of battle of Lutzen and of Bautzen; and promising from that time, the great hopes which America ere long saw realized. Shall I paint to you that admirable assemblage of mildness and of severity, of talents and of modesty, of valour and of prudence? that union so rare of the maturity of age with the vivacity of youth, of the love of glory with the contempt of grandeur, hatred for tyrants with clemency towards the vanquished?

"Believe me, Gentlemen, the death of BRANDZEN is not an ordinary death, the natural result of the chances of war. He was too consummate a military man not to know all the danger which menaced him, and too distinguished an officer not to know the fatal consequences; but too brave to hesitate. In that critical moment it could not be concealed that the order to charge the enemy was a sentence of death,—nevertheless his great soul was not moved.

"Adieu, sacred remains! Adieu, BRANDZEN, adieu! once more adieu! In indemnification for so much future glory, descend to the tomb with the regret and the benedictions of a free people.

"Receive, through me, the adieus of thy countrymen, of whom thou wert in this country the ornament and pride. Receive a last adieu from thy friend and companion in arms. Go, repose in peace. The conscience of the good man is satisfied, since it may see, in quitting thee, Immortality seated on the tomb of courage and of virtue."

A subscription is open at the Sala Argentina, in order to erect a monument to the memory of General Brandzen.

THEATRE.

The season of Lent is the only period in which the performance of the regular Drama is suspended, and the Theatre, with that exception, continues open the entire year.

Thanks to the liberality of the age, Operas and other exhibitions are permitted during Lent. On 24th ult., the "never tiring" Opera of the "Barber of Seville" was performed, and in spite of a sultry evening, to a very full house, including many operatic amateurs, and charming fashionable females, that rarely grace the Theatre but on these nights. An excellent arrangement took place, the second and third acts being combined into one, with a pretty finale, which we believe belongs to the Opera, and now first introduced here: we recollect to have heard it at Drury Lane Theatre, in the dance of the Houries in "Nourjahad."

The manner in which "El Barbero" is represented at this Theatre, deserves more than common praise. The delightful warblings of Doña Angelita,—the skill and science of Rosquellas,—Vacani, of whom perhaps it is not saying too much to pronounce him the only Figaro extant; his fine person, rich voice, and comic powers, would extort praise from the most rigid critic. Ricciolini's Don Basilio always provokes laughter; he looks the very hypocrite he represents; and Vera's 'Doctor Bartolo' merits commendation.

On the 23th, the following performances: A Concerto and an Aria, with variations upon the Piano, by Madame Rhigas; the first act of the Opera "Engaño Feliz;" and feats of activity, &c. by Monsieur Rhigas. The fame of the lady had preceded her from Rio Janeiro, and considerable curiosity was excited.

In a capital like Buenos Ayres, in which so many excel upon the piano, a debutant has more than ordinary criticism to encounter; but she acquitted herself in a manner which we have seldom heard surpassed, and received great applause. Madame Rhigas in appearance is young and interesting; she was conducted on the stage by Señor Navarro, himself no mean professor in musical science.

The house was excessively crowded, the heat excessive, and the prices doubled. Many gentlemen had recourse to fans, but failed to manage them with that grace so peculiar to the Porteña lady.

☞ We have received a communication of considerable length from Mr. W. P. Robertson with an accompanying correspondence; and want of time prevents our giving the whole this week. We shall however lay it before our readers next Saturday, in a Supplemental Sheet to the *British Packet*.

MARRIED.

On Thursday evening last, Mr. RICHARD HYNES, to Miss VINCENT, daughter of Mr. Francis Vincent, Engraver, of this city.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublers, 64 4 to 65 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 285 to 290 per cent. premium.
 Plata macaquina, 275 to 280 per cent.
 Gold in bars, 22½ to 23 reals per quilate.
 Silver do. 20½ to 21 reals per dinero.
 Exchange on England, 13d. per dollar.
 Do. United States, 400 per cent.

Very little business done last week in manufactured goods, but the sale of liquors has been extensive, and at good prices.